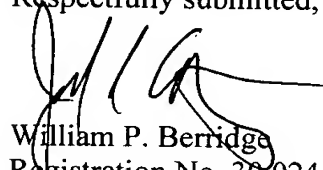


remove multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge  
Registration No. 30,024

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WPB:JSA/mlb  
Attached: Appendix  
Date: March 1, 2002

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